



February 23, 2011

Good day,

It is an honor and a privilege to present the views of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce on the pending legislation titled, "An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws."

As you might already know, the GMCC is a member-focused organization that drives the greater Manchester business environment and the economic health and vitality of the region by supporting business growth, professional development and networking opportunities, while advocating for our membership.

It is the advocacy aspect of our mission which brings us here today. Our members would like to see regulatory modernization legislation succeed in Connecticut so that businesses can grow without the burden of redundant and inconsistent regulations.

One of the chief complaints of businesses, from startups to well-established enterprises, is dealing with the wide array of regulations – many of which are overlapping and obsolete. The GMCC is here today to advocate in support of regulatory reform that will eliminate wasteful regulations.

The businesses the GMCC represents run the gamut of regulated industries, from financial services to construction and trades. GMCC members are all too familiar with the cost and effort involved in dealing with regulatory red tape.

Freeing businesses from the burden of unnecessary regulation should be a top priority, especially in a state like Connecticut that has one of the worst job markets in the country.

"An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws" is important to the GMCC because it clears the regulatory underbrush, taking Connecticut down the path of regulatory reform espoused recently by President Obama.

President Obama stated that we need to "make sure we avoid excessive, inconsistent and redundant regulation" and focus our efforts on modernizing regulations that "stifle job creation and make our country less competitive." We at the GMCC could not agree more.

This legislation will begin the regulatory reform process and serve as a catalyst for further reforms. While this legislation is limited to telecommunications many of the principles can transfer to the regulation of other industries.

Specifically, this bill will eliminate wasteful duplicate paper and electronic filing requirements as well as eliminate the need to audit a company on both the state and federal levels.

In the GMCC's view "An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws" is just the type of regulatory reform Connecticut needs.

By eliminating burdensome and outdated regulations that only create additional costs for businesses, Connecticut will truly be able to compete with other states, attract new investment dollars, and recruit new talent. If Connecticut does not act on this legislation now it risks being left behind.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue O'Connor". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sue O'Connor, President.